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THE GREATEST DENTAL FAMILY.

By LAWRENCE PARMLY BROWN, D.D.S., Peekskill, N. Y.

(Reprinted from the DENTAL COSMOS for March, April and May 1923.)



6014



ELEAZAR PARMLY.

Portrait bust in marble by Solyman Brown.
(About 1835.)



ELEAZAR PARMLY.

Portrait in oil by Solyman Brown.
(About 1840.)

E L E A Z A R P A R M L Y
 P O R T R A I T B U S T I N M A R B L E
 B Y S O L Y M A N B R O W N
 A B O U T 1 8 3 5

E L E A Z A R P A R M L Y
 P O R T R A I T I N O I L
 B Y S O L Y M A N B R O W N
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The Greatest Dental Family.

By LAWRENCE PARMLY BROWN, D.D.S., Peekskill, N. Y.

(Reprinted from the DENTAL COSMOS for March, April and May 1923.)

AMONG the numerous children and grandchildren of two New England farmer brothers of the Parmelee or Parmly family, thirteen became dentists, of whom twelve bore the name of Parmly, while one was a son of a daughter of one of the farmer brothers. Two other daughters of the same brother married dentists, one marrying twice and each time a dentist; and in the families of those dentists who thus married Parmlys there were two more dentists, a sister of one of them being the wife of one of the first generation of Parmly dentists. Therefore we have five dentists connected by marriage with the thirteen of the Parmly line—in all, eighteen dentists in the family in two generations.

One of the thirteen dentists of the Parmly line practiced only two years; but all the others were successful practitioners, several of them being among the most eminent of their time or of any time. Indeed, one of them, Dr. Eleazar Parmly, occupied a position second to none in the dental profession of this country; and all things considered, as all things must be in any just estimate of men, he may well be ranked as the greatest dentist in history.

The first of the family in this country were father and son, both named John Parmelee. They came from England and settled in Guilford, Conn.; the son in 1635 and the father in 1639.¹

¹ See Munsell's "American Ancestry," Vol. iii, p. 195, and the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol. liii, pp. 405-411. It has been claimed that the senior John Parmelee was a son of Johannes, Baron of Batavia, son of Maurice D. Parmelee, a Protestant who fled from Flanders in the 16th century to escape the persecution of the Catholic Duke of Alva, and who founded the mercantile house of Von

In the fifth generation of the family in America, Jahial Parmelee (1742-1804; son of Stephen, of Stephen, of John, of John) was a farmer of Connecticut and Vermont, who married Eunice, a daughter of Joshua and Elizabeth (Wheelock) Hendee—this Elizabeth being a sister of Rev. Eleazar Wheelock, founder and first president of Dartmouth College. Among the eight children of Jahial and Eunice (Hendee) Parmelee were Eleazar and Randolph, the farmer brothers, whose children and grandchildren included thirteen dentists; and about 1810 Eleazar the farmer changed the spelling of the family name to Parmly, which thenceforth was employed by both brothers and their descendants.²

Parmelee in Holland. But this claim has never been proved; on the contrary, it is doubted by the genealogists E. E. and E. McC. Salisbury in their "Family Histories and Genealogies"—"Notes on the Family of Parmelee," pp. 219-233. These authorities suggest that the American Parmelees were of Swiss descent; their name presumably being from the French Parmelin, at present found only in Switzerland—see also Munsell's "American Ancestry," *loc. cit.* Fitz-Greene Halleck belonged to the Parmelee family; his maternal grandmother having been a daughter of Joseph, son of Isaac, of John, of John Senior the emigrant.

² In "The Parmly Family: Its Origin and Name," the Rev. Wheelock Parmly, a son of Randolph the farmer, has given his own American line of descent and the genealogy of each immediate family group in that line; but he has nothing of the collateral lines. Date records of the children of Eleazar the farmer, down to 1883, are given by H. R. Bass in his "History of Braintree, Vermont," pp. 170, 171; and these are confirmed by MS. records of Dr. Eleazar Parmly in possession of the present writer, who has obtained much of the other genealogical data in this article from other members of the Parmly family.

The Parmly dentists were of sturdy stock; tall and prepossessing in appearance and manner; large of heart and demonstrative; very domestic; thoroughly conscientious and religiously inclined, like their New England ancestors in general. The family had belonged to the Baptist Church even before the arrival of the emigrants; but around 1815 both Eleazar and Randolph, the farmers, joined the newly organized Disciples of Christ, sometimes called Campbellites (who were Baptist reformists), and most of the children of these brothers were ardent Disciples. The grandchildren as well as the children of both brothers had much native mechanical ability, business acumen, ambition and initiative, as well as remarkable adaptability under various conditions; which accounts in large part for the successes of the Parmly dentists in Europe and America. But above all, they were gentlemen; and what they did for the elevation of the profession, especially in the estimation of the laity, can hardly be overestimated.

They are introduced in the following pages in the order of birth, those who were most closely associated being considered together as far as practicable.

LEVI S. AND ELEAZAR PARMLY.

(Sons of Eleazar, the farmer)³.

Levi Spear Parmly, second child of Eleazar (the farmer) and Hannah

(Spear) Parmly, was born in Braintree, Vt., August 29, 1790.

Eleazar Parmly, fifth child and third son of the same parents, was born in Braintree, March 13, 1797.⁴

ical ability was inherited by all of his five sons; four of whom became dentists. Only David, the oldest child, devoted himself exclusively to farming; while two of the daughters married dentists, one being married twice and each time to a dentist. Eleazar, the farmer, died at Perry, Ohio, July 4, 1825, and was buried there in the family plot in the Disciples' Churchyard, where his wife was soon after laid at rest, as she died July 27, 1826. Their son David was born in Braintree, December 27, 1788; went with his father to Perry; married twice and had several children, but his line is now extinct. He died at Perry, October 10, 1856.

⁴ Between Levi S. and Eleazar come two of their sisters:

Hannah Parmly, born in Braintree, April 18, 1792; was married October 18, 1810, to Samuel Burridge from Moriah, Essex County, N. Y., a cousin on the Spear side, and had by him four sons and four daughters. The youngest child, was Levi S. Burridge, the eminent dentist whose life will be sketched hereinafter; while one of the daughters, Betsy, became Mrs. Brutus Stockwell, and her sons Alden and Levi married daughters of Elias Howe, the inventor of the sewing machine. Hannah and her husband first emigrated to Canada, and thence to Perry in 1814; being the first of the family to enter the forests of Ohio. Here they were visited in 1816 by Eleazar, the farmer, who liked the country so well that he removed from Buffalo to Perry with his family in the following year ("History of Geauga and Lake Counties," pp. 240, 244). Hannah died in the nearby village of Painesville, March 5, 1891, and was buried there on her 99th birthday; her remains having been kept in a vault during the interim.

Betsy Parmly, born in Braintree, December 5, 1794, married Moses Hurlburt of Braintree, March 28, 1813. They first emigrated to Buffalo with Eleazar, the farmer; but the families there separated, the Hurlburts going to Pittsburgh and finally following the Burridges to Perry, all in 1816 ("History of Geauga and Lake Counties," pp. 240, 245). Betsy died June 17, 1826, in Perry, where she was buried. She had four children. One of her two sons, George Wheelock Hurlburt, was a farmer in Perry; married Mary Norman in 1866 and had three daughters and a son. One

³ Eleazar, the farmer, first child of Jahial and Eunice (Hendee) Parmelee, was born in Sheffield, Conn., October 2, 1765. On September 7, 1786, he married Hannah, daughter of Samuel Spear of Braintree, Vt., where Eleazar had a farm for many years. With his wife and their nine children he removed in 1807 to another Vermont farm, on the shore of Lake Champlain; thence to Buffalo in 1816, and finally in 1817 to Perry, Ohio. He first settled on the River Road in Perry, and later on the shore of Lake Erie, where he purchased fifty acres of virgin forest (see "History of Geauga and Lake Counties, Ohio," pp. 240, 244; "Biographical History of North-eastern Ohio," p. 368). He was a born mechanic, who made with his own hands a set of furniture for each of his daughters as a wedding gift, and did a large part of the work on the Disciples' Church at Perry. His mechan-

These brothers spent their early years as Vermont farmer boys, first in Braintree and later near the shore of Lake Champlain, in the northwestern corner of the State. Eleazar has described the paternal homes of both localities in one of the most spontaneous of his poetic efforts, from which the following verses are taken:

Beyond our home [in Braintree] we knew
no charm,
The world was then our little farm.
With what keen pleasure I review
The scenes my early childhood knew:
The grassy fields o'er which I strayed;
The pebbly brook in which I played;
My tiny dam, with slips of deal
For water-spout and water-wheel;
Our cottage, with its naked floor;
The trees that stood around the door;
The logs, piled up in rudest form
To screen our cattle from the storm.

Where all were happy, all were blessed—
This now by others was possessed.
Thence wandering sixty miles or more
Across the mountains, near the shore
Of Lake Champlain, we found a land
Of rugged rocks and barren sand.

For wilder scenes or rougher ground
Can scarcely anywhere be found
Where man has tried, by hardy toil,
To clear the land and till the soil.⁵

Eleazar proceeds to describe the poor schools of the latter location, with their terms of three months in the year. But when he was twelve years old, as he tells us, he went for two years to a good school in Montreal through the kindness of his father's friend, Major Levi Mower; and at the beginning of the War of 1812 he

became a compositor, reporter and general assistant in the newspaper office of Nahum Mower, editor and proprietor of the *Canadian Courant*.

Levi S. left the paternal farm at the age of twenty-two. His father had found fault with the way he was hoeing potatoes, so he threw down his hoe, exclaiming, "That is the last row of potatoes I'll ever hoe."⁶

He forthwith left with his dog and his violin, and proceeded on foot to Boston; exchanging manual labor and musical entertainment for board and lodging on the way. He was a youth of fine appearance; nearly six feet tall; strong in body and mind; always studious; a superior horseman and wrestler. Eleazar, although not as athletic as his elder brother, was taller and even more prepossessing in appearance; no less studious and always something of a mechanical genius. We saw above how Eleazar refers to the water-wheel he made in early youth; and when thirteen, while still at school in Montreal, he constructed a dove-tailed clothes chest of hard wood, which is said to have been a creditable piece of work.

Shortly after arriving at Boston (1812), Levi S. became an apprentice in the office of Dr. Petrie, a dentist from England; thus beginning his career as the pioneer dentist of the Parmly family. Dr. Petrie returned to England the following year, and Levi S. associated himself with Dr. John Randal, an eminent physician and dentist of Boston, from whom he received instruction for two years, until 1815. Eleazar's aid was required on the paternal farm after Levi S. left it, so he made his way thither on foot from Montreal; worked at farming for some time, and at seventeen (in 1814) passed the necessary examinations and became the school teacher of his district for one season. Although many of his pupils were older than himself, his

of these daughters, Marion, married Jahial, son of Betsy's brother Jahial. The lives of both of these Jahials, who were dentists, will be sketched hereinafter.

* From his rhymed "Address to the Graduating Class of the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery," February 1847; in *American Journal of Dental Science*, Vol. vii, pp. 300-323; in pamphlet reprint of same, and also in his "Thoughts in Rhyme," pp. 573-584. This address is one of our chief first-hand sources of information for the history of Eleazar Parmly's life.

⁶ A somewhat different version of the tradition is given by Thorpe in his biography of Levi S. Parmly; in the *Dental Brief*, Vol. ix, p. 209, and Koch's "History of Dental Surgery," Vol. iii, p. 155.

success was such that he was voted extra pay at the close of the season.

In 1815 Levi S. went from Boston to Montreal; started in practice for himself in the latter city, and was shortly joined by Eleazar as student-assistant, as Levi S. had proposed. Eleazar tells us that he was at first employed in carving artificial teeth from the tusk of the seal-horse or walrus.⁷

In the same year (1815) the brothers removed to Quebec, where Levi S. probably practiced about a year, and Eleazar about two years. At any rate, Levi S. published the first edition of his "Practical Guide to the Management of the Teeth" in Philadelphia in 1816, and was in London from 1817 to 1820 (see below), while Eleazar himself tells us that he left Quebec (1817) for a tour through the then Western States of the Union, and that said tour was continued from Pittsburgh to New Orleans and lasted for two years, until he had earned sufficient funds to go to Europe, in 1819.⁸

In 1817 Eleazar's father had removed from Vermont to Perry, Ohio, and Eleazar was doubtless at the Perry farm in the same year.⁹

Eleazar's itinerary through the West

⁷ See his "Introductory Address before the American Society of Dental Surgeons," July 1842, as published in the *American Journal*, Vol. iii, pp. 1-19, and pamphlet reprint. In this address he gives an outline of the early history of Levi S. and himself in dentistry.

⁸ "Introductory Address before the American Society," 1842, p. 2, and rhymed "Address to the Graduating Class of the Baltimore College," 1847, pp. 310-11. Thorpe is doubly in error when he says that Eleazar "was accompanied by his brother Levi while on this tour, which lasted four years"—biography of Eleazar Parmlly, in *Dental Review*, Vol. xvi, pp. 860-868, and Koch's "History of Dental Surgery," Vol. iii.

⁹ See the Introduction to his "Address to the Ladies of Painesville" in "Thoughts in Rhyme," pp. 505-7. Both he and Levi S. probably assisted in the purchase of the Perry property; indeed Eleazar in several of his rhymes lauds Levi S., not only for his ambition and energy, but also for his warm affection and liberality to his father's needy family—see the "Address" of 1842, and "Thoughts in Rhyme," pp. 369, 388, 579. Of

and South belongs to a period when steamboats were still of an experimental kind, and railroads were as yet unbuilt in the United States. He appears to have started from the Perry farm and to have floated down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.¹⁰

Eleazar's early practice, like that of Levi S. and the generality of their contemporaries, consisted of extracting with the turnkey; cleaning with scrapers; separating teeth and removing caries with files; filling with tin foil; carving artificial dentures from ivory and bone, and individual artificial teeth from the teeth of cattle, and attaching the latter as well as human teeth to gold and silver plates bent to something like the required form. Eleazar first saw a gold "stopping" in Quebec, the work of Waite of London, and subsequently others in Lexington, Ky., from the hands of Hudson of Philadelphia; these operators then being the most expert of the few gold

the Perry farm Eleazar says in "Thoughts in Rhyme," p. 508:

"Safely embosomed in the sheltering wood,
My loving father's lowly cabin stood.

.....
"With scanty means and stinted daily food,
He felled the trees and burned the heavy wood:

No aids to meet the forest dark and dire
But naked hands, ambition, axe and fire.

.....
"The fields grew green beneath his culturing care,
Where once the savage panther held his lair."

.....
¹⁰ In his "Thoughts in Rhyme," p. 351, he has some verses "Written on an Ark Floating down the Ohio River in 1818," cf. p. 352, where we also find verses written by him on the Miami and in New Orleans in 1818. In his "Address to the Graduating Class of the Baltimore College," 1849, he says that one of the fields of his early professional efforts was Cincinnati—pamphlet, p. 7. It was on this itinerary that he is said to have struck a young society man who intentionally jostled him when with a lady at a ball; the aggressor sending a challenge to a duel by an insolent friend, whom Eleazar soundly thrashed. See the biographical sketch of Eleazar Parmlly in "America's Successful Men of Affairs," Vol. ii, p. 495.

workers in Europe and America. Eleazar says that he had no idea at the time how the gold for these "stoppings" was obtained and inserted; but in Lexington he had foil made from gold coins and proceeded to use it successfully for "stopping" teeth, of course by hand pressure. It was in Lexington that he first saw "mineral teeth," in the mouth of a gentleman from France, where they had originated shortly before; and while in New Orleans he first saw a swaged plate, the work of a London dentist. In the South, Eleazar also saw mouths that had been treated by Koecker and Hayden. "The few operations," he says, "which I had thus an opportunity of seeing, executed in a masterly manner, excited in my mind an ambition which I should like to feel in this life again."¹¹

Levi S. was in London for something over a year during 1817-1818, with his address in Buckingham Street, Adelphi, where he met with immediate success. He was probably the first American dentist to practice abroad, certainly the first to gain distinction there. He became intimate with the leading dentists of London (Bell, Tomes, Nasmyth, Waite, Gray and Cartwright), and received letters of indorsement from various notables, including the celebrated surgeons Sir Astley Cooper (June 1817) and Sir

Anthony Carlisle (August 1818—see below). In 1818 he published the second edition of his "Practical Guide," dedicated to his friend and patron, Benjamin West, the American artist, long a resident of London. In the latter part of the same year he returned to the United States and made a professional itinerary that included British America and the West India Islands (see below). In New Orleans he married Eliza C. Johnson of that city (1818); and in Philadelphia, January 1, 1819, he published the third edition of his "Practical Guide."¹²

It was also in 1819 that he returned with his wife to London; establishing himself at 1 St. James' Street, corner of Pall Mall, where his first child, George W., was born October 22d of the same year, and where he delivered lectures to the public for a moderate admission fee, on his discovery of the external origin of caries and the necessity of cleanliness as a preventive. He was the Father of Dental Hygiene.

In New York City, early in 1819, Eleazar met and fell in love with his future wife, Anna M. V. Smith (an orphan, born August 22, 1802, the adopted daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Ehrick of Charleston, S. C.); but they

¹¹ "Address" of 1842, in *American Journal*, Vol. iii, pp. 2, 3. At the time of Eleazar's itinerary, Hudson and James Gardette ranked as the foremost dentists in America. But Koecker was already well known in the same city, as were Hayden in Baltimore; R. Wooffendale, I. J. Greenwood, J. Parkhurst and A. Gaetan in New York, and J. Randall, W. P. Greenwood and J. F. Flagg in Boston—see *ibid.*, p. 7 and "Address" of 1847, in *American Journal*, Vol. vii, pp. 319, 322. Eleazar apparently refers to the same itinerary in his "Address before the American Society," 1845, in which he says that he traveled at an early period from Philadelphia (perhaps a typographical error for "Pittsburg") to New Orleans, through the Western and Southern States, meeting but one dentist who had any pretensions to an acquaintance with the theory and practice of dentistry, an educated and highly respectable Polish gentleman named A. J. Shymanski (*American Journal*, Vol. vi, p. 3).

¹² The full title is: "A Practical Guide to the Management of the Teeth: Comprising a discovery of the origin of caries, or decay of the teeth, with its prevention and cure. By L. S. Parmly, Dental Professor;" 24mo, Philadelphia, 1816; 12mo, London, 1818 and Philadelphia 1819. This was the fourth dental work published in America and, like its predecessors, it was primarily for popular consumption and advertising purposes; but unquestionably it did much toward educating the laity to an appreciation of dentistry. It is well written, setting forth the author's principles and practice, to which he refers as "the Parmlyan System," together with his discovery of the external origin of caries and his advocacy of cleanliness as a preventive. There is no reason to doubt that his discovery was made independently of the few others who held similar views—in opposition to the generally received theory of the time, that caries originated within the teeth and progressed outward. The Cooper and Carlisle letters appear in the edition of 1819.

were shortly parted, when Anna's foster-father died, and she was taken South. Eleazar went to Europe, expecting to settle there permanently and never see her again (see "Thoughts in Rhyme," pp. 365-7 and 521). With a view to perfecting himself in his vocation, he procured such dental books as he could in London and called on the prominent dentists of that city; thence proceeding to Paris, where he paid for a course of instruction with J. F. C. Maury—all in 1819.¹³

Late in 1819, Eleazar returned to London and practiced with Levi S. for some six months.¹⁴

¹³ The DENTAL COSMOS obituary of Eleazar Parmly says he went to London "about 1820," which Thorpe changes to "in 1820." Eleazar says of the London dentists: "They all received me politely and conversed with me freely. I speak with great pleasure of the interview which I had with Mr. Gray, of Old Burlington Street, who was then, and if alive, is now, one of the first (*i.e.*, leading) mechanical dentists in the world, besides being a thoroughly educated surgeon" ("Address" of 1842); and he also says that the gold "stoppings" of Waite were the best that he ever saw anywhere ("Address" of 1847). The Paris dentists received him cordially, but so jealously guarded their methods that he was not even received into a dental "cabinet" until he called upon J. F. C. Maury, dentist to the household of King Louis XVIII, and brother of F. Maury—both brothers well known as dental authors. At the close of his studies with J. F. C. Maury, Eleazar received from him a testimonial bearing the King's seal ("Address" of 1842).

"The present writer has in his possession "A Professional Testimonial in favor of Mr. E. Parmly," dated at London, January 1820, and signed by Astley Cooper and Anthony Carlisle, who say of Eleazar:

"In performing the various operations belonging to his vocation, we know of none who surpasses him in skill; and have equal reason to believe his mode of treating disorders of the Teeth, and directions for their management, preferable to any hitherto adopted.

"Mr. Parmly has been some time practicing with his brother, whose discovery of the origin and prevention of caries in the Teeth, together with his superior mode of treating their diseases, has justly gained him much celebrity."

Levi S. published the first edition of his "Natural History of the Teeth" in London, early in 1820; and about the middle of that year returned to the United States, while Eleazar remained in London at 1 St. James' Street about a year and a half longer. Levi S. published another edition of his "Natural History of the Teeth" in New York, also in 1820 (copyrighted there June 20) and patented a composition for preserving teeth. In July of the same year he was

FIG. 1.



LEVI S. PARMLY.

(In early life.)

(From a miniature from Koch's "History of Dental Surgery," Vol. III.)

in Perry, from which place he took his brother Jahial to Lundy's Lane, near Niagara Falls on the Canadian side, where they gathered a large number of teeth from the skulls of soldiers who had fallen in the battle of Bridgewater in 1814. It is said that the brothers had some trouble with Canadian officials, but got away with the teeth; many of which were attached to gold and silver plates during the following year (1820-1821) on an itinerary through the South by way of New York and Washington. President James Monroe and his family were among their distinguished patients; Levi S. receiving a flattering testimonial

from the President dated at Washington, December 9, 1820.

In 1821 Jahial returned to Perry and Levi S. proceeded to New York City, where he established himself at 297½ Broadway; delivered his "Lectures" at the Franklin House, and published still another edition of his "Natural History of the Teeth." This was dedicated to President Monroe, September 18, 1821, and is designated the second edition on the title page.¹⁵

¹⁵ The full title of the first edition is: "Lectures on the Natural History and Management of the Teeth; the cause of their decay; the art of preventing its accession; and various operations never hitherto suggested for the preservation of such Teeth as it is too frequently considered necessary to extract. By L. S. Parnly, Dentist to the Principal members of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of London, 1820." 8vo. Of the New York edition of the same year, not designated the second, the present writer has been able to find but one copy, in the Boston Public Library; and that copy was bound in New Orleans in 1824, together with an advertising notice in English and French of the author's dental practice in that year at 49 Canal Street, New Orleans. In the second edition, as so designated, the latter part of the original subtitle is altered to: "And various operations, never hitherto suggested, for the preservation of diseased teeth;" but the texts of these editions appear to be identical.

This work is of even better literary quality than the same author's "Practical Guide," and is devoted largely to his discovery of the external origin of caries and his teaching of cleanliness as a preventive. He says that "Where the teeth are kept literally clean, no disease will ever be perceptible" (p. 60, first edition; p. 63, second edition); and it took nearly a century for this near-truth to become generally accepted in the exaggerated axiom, "A clean tooth never decays." He advertises a toothbrush of his own design, with a curved line of bristles (like the best modern brushes), a tooth polisher made of clay (which sold extensively for many years as Parnly's "argillaceous tooth polisher"); prepared (waxed floss) silk for cleaning between the teeth; a tongue scraper and mouth mirrors. He gives a Prospectus for his Lectures to the public "on the cause of decay and on the management of the teeth," as delivered at 1 St. James' Street in London, and

Eleazar, like Levi S., had the patronage of Cooper, Carlisle, West, and other notables in London, and became an intimate friend of the distinguished Basil Montagu (son of the fourth Earl of Sandwich, and in later life Queen's Counsel) and of Thomas Hare (a well-known surgeon), with the latter of whom he resided (see "Thoughts in Rhyme," pp. 82, 125, 355, 404). He was taken so sick in 1821 that he thought he would die (*ibid.*, p. 491); and in the latter part of that year returned to New York for the recovery of his health, leaving his practice at 1 St. James' Street in the hands of John T. Edmunds, a young English dentist (see Eleazar's "Address" of 1847, in *American Journal*, vii, p. 314, note). The first edition of Eleazar's "Disorders and Treatment of the Teeth" was published in London, 1821, with a dedication to Richard Rush, Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States to Great Britain, dated July 1821; but the title page states that it was "printed for John T. Edmunds, Dentist, No. 1 St. James' Street," apparently about the time of the departure of Eleazar, for the latter gives Edmund's address as Albemarle Street in the text of this edition.¹⁶

at the Franklin House in New York. And in the first edition he offers to instruct "gentlemen of liberal education" for dental practice; while in the second the offer is extended to both ladies and gentlemen—where we probably have the earliest vision of the lady dentist. In the first edition his terms for this instruction are: 200 guineas for practice in London; 150 guineas for practice in other cities of Great Britain, and 100 guineas for foreign practice; these terms being expressed in dollars in the New York edition of 1820, with the \$700 price for "any other city of Great Britain or America." These terms were criticized as exorbitant by J. H. Foster before the American Society in 1851 (See *American Journal*, New Series, ii, p. 546). Levi S. substitutes "on moderate terms" in the 1821 edition.

¹⁶ In the section on Artificial Palates, of which Eleazar says: "In arranging mechanical contrivances of this kind, I never met with any person whose ingenuity equals that of Mr. J. T. Edmunds, of Albemarle Street" (p. 53).

The second edition of the "Disorders and Treatment" is also a London imprint of 1821; but it carries a notice dated at New York, December 1821, in which it is stated that Eleazar, advised by medical friends to leave London for the recovery of his health, intended to remain for that winter in New York, devoting a portion of his time to professional practice at 297½ Broadway.¹⁷

It thus appears that Eleazar was with Levi S. at 297½ Broadway late in 1821, and that he intended to return to London after the recovery of his health; but Levi S. left shortly for New Orleans, and Eleazar settled permanently in New York, where he was received very coldly at first, even being advised to go to Albany.¹⁸

He published the third edition of his "Disorders and Treatment" in 1822, the title page designating this edition as of "New York and London."¹⁹

¹⁷ His DENTAL COSMOS obituary erroneously says: "About the year 1823 he returned to America" (Vol. xvii, p. 21), which Thorpe changes to "in 1823," while McManus has "After three years [from about 1820] he returned to New York City" ("The Makers of Dentistry," in "Transactions of the North-eastern Dental Association," 1903, p. 116).

¹⁸ See a footnote to his "Address" of 1847, in *American Journal*, vii, pp. 317-319, where he adds that New York patients of that day rarely recognized their dentists on the street, acquaintances ending at the office door. In the same footnote he has some verses on his disappointment and loneliness at the beginning of his career in New York; but in another footnote, p. 323, he says it was not long before he gained the support of some of the leading physicians of that city, among whom were Wright Post, Alexander H. Stevens and Valentine Mott; and to them he attributes the beginning of his success there.

¹⁹ The full title is: "An Essay on the Disorders and Treatment of the Teeth, by Eleazar Parmly." All three editions are dedicated to Benjamin Rush (the Father of American Medicine) and are substantially identical; but in the 1822 edition the original Introduction is considerably expanded and there are some additions to the text. This book was primarily for popular consumption and advertising purposes, like the books of Levi S. and others of that time. It reiterates the teaching of

Levi S. settled in New Orleans in 1822, and had his headquarters there for over thirty years, also practicing in Matanzas, Cuba. His three youngest chil-

FIG. 2.



LEVI S. PARMLY.
(1840.)

(From a plaster cast of a portrait bust in clay by Solyman Brown, inscribed "Levi S. Parmly, Ann[o] at[atis] L," i.e., In the year of his age, 50.)

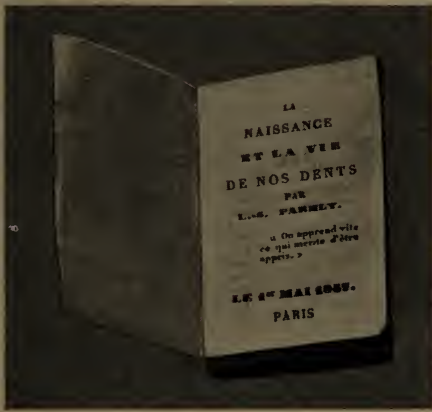
Levi S. with respect to the origin of caries and the necessity for cleanliness, and contains information "collected by the author in America, France and England," as he states in an advertisement in the first edition. It also contains descriptions of his improved turnkey with a movable fulcrum, and of the elevator he devised for extracting roots; and in a chapter on "Practical Advice" in the third edition we are given the interesting information that the London and Paris academies and boarding schools of that time were regularly attended by dentists (p. 72). It is the only book from Eleazar Parmly's pen; and although well written and widely read, it falls somewhat short of the originality and vigor of his elder brother's works. It was reviewed by the *Medico-Chirurgical Journal* and the *Medical Review* of London in 1821, and by the *New York Mirror* in 1824.

dren were born in New Orleans—a son who died in infancy, and two daughters who married but only one of whom had children. In the summer of 1840 he was in New York as one of the organizers of the American Society,²⁰ from which as a member he received his original D.D.S. (*American Journal*, Vol. i, pp. 157, 165, 166).

He was on the committee that drafted the Constitution of the Society and on its first Executive Committee (*ibid.*, pp. 162, 168), and was appointed to pre-

early childhood. This was published in the *American Journal* for September 1841, Vol. ii, pp. 28–38, where we first find Levi S. with his D.D.S. and his M.D.; and the same paper reappeared in pamphlet form under the title “On the Best Method of Preserving the Natural Teeth,” New York, 1842. The honorary D.D.S. of the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery was conferred upon Levi S. in 1842 (not 1841, the date as erroneously given in the College catalogues—see the present writer’s “New Light on

FIG. 3.



Title page of “La Naissance et la Vie de Nos Dents,” by Levi S. Parmly, as bound with “Parmly on Human Development.”

FIG. 4.



“La Naissance et la Vie de Nos Dents,” pp. 78, 79, illustrating Levi S. Parmly’s clay tooth polishers and toothbrush.

pare a paper (p. 169), which he read at the Society’s second convention, in Philadelphia, 1841—“A Dissertation on the Management of the Mouth and Teeth,” the author’s theme still being cleanliness and the importance of it from

²⁰ It was during this visit to New York that Solyman Brown modeled the bust of Levi S. Parmly, a photograph of which is reproduced herewith, from a plaster cast originally in the possession of Eleazar Parmly. Solyman Brown had made a bust of Eleazar about 1835—see “New Light on Dental History,” in the *DENTAL COSMOS*, Vol. lxii, p. 943. The only other known portrait of Levi S. is a miniature, none too good, which is also reproduced herewith.

Dental History,” in the *DENTAL COSMOS*, Vol. lxii, p. 950). His first child, George W., was associated with him as student-assistant about 1840–1845, and then went to The Hague, Holland (see sketch of the life of George W. hereinafter).

Levi S. was the most eminent dentist of his day in the South; succeeding so well financially that he was able to devote a large share of his time to the hobby of his latter years—gratuitous dental services and instruction to children in schools and orphan asylums. He published an article on “The Importance of the Preservation of the Teeth” in the *American Journal* for January 1851 (New Series, Vol. i, pp. 165–169), his

theme still being cleanliness; and about 1852 (Thorpe says "in 1850") he went abroad again, practicing and lecturing for the remainder of his life in Paris as well as London, for he had become quite proficient in the French language while in New Orleans. He also continued to labor gratuitously for children in schools and orphan asylums during this final period abroad, to which probably belongs his "Dental Hygiene" as well as the eleven editions of his "Human Development," and his "La Naissance et la Vie de Nos Dents," Paris, 1857.²¹

²¹ The present writer possesses a copy of the third edition and elsewhere has been able to find only two copies of the eleventh edition of the very scarce work entitled "Parmly on Human Development, and on the Art of Retaining All the Senses in Perfect Health. For the use of the Profession and of Mothers and Guardians," both editions being dated August 29, 1854, and specified as numbering 5000; and every copy of this work known to the present writer is bound up with "La Naissance et la Vie de Nos Dents [The Birth and Life of Our Teeth]," Paris, May 1, 1857; while the cover of the double volume bears the title, "Parmly's Security against Decay and Loss of the Teeth." It is doubtless the greatest curiosity of dental typography, a Lilliputian, with a printed text about 1x1½ inches and comprising in all 217 pages. The author's London address was at first 45, later 70, Park Street, as we learn from advertisements in the "Human Development," third and eleventh editions respectively; in the latter of which we read of "Parmly's Modern School of Domestic Dentistry, permanently established at 70 Park Street, Grosvenor Square, A. D. Copeland, Traveling Agent." In both the English and French texts the author has numerous testimonials, and continues to emphasize the importance of cleanliness for the preservation of teeth as subject to the external attacks of caries. An announcement in English states that when in London he was at home in Park Street for consultation and operating from 9 to 12 A.M.; that he reserved from 1 to 5 P.M. for classes of instruction at pupils' homes; that his evening school opened at 8 P.M. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays; that he gave a short "Parlour Lecture" on Fridays by special appointment, and that he attended orphan asylums and similar institutions gratuitously to give instruction in physical

He had an attack of typhoid fever in Paris, 1858, which left him partially paralyzed and unable to practice; but he continued his lectures on dental hygiene until shortly before his death, which occurred at Versailles, July 8, 1859. In accordance with his own request, the remains of the Father of Dental Hygiene were taken to Perry, Ohio, and interred near those of his parents, in the Disciples' Churchyard, on his 70th birthday, August 29th of the same year.²²

ELEAZAR PARMLY.

Eleazar resided and practiced at 297½ Broadway, corner of Duane Street, New York, from 1821 to 1825. In 1822 he was joined by his youngest brother, Samuel W., as his first student-assistant, their association continuing for several years. In the same year Eleazar met Solyman Brown, then a teacher in the

culture as well as the care of the teeth. From the French text we learn that he delivered lectures in the Grand Hotel du Louvre in Paris, where he had what he calls a School of Dental Hygiene; and he inserts woodcuts of his clay tooth polishers and improved toothbrush. In an advertisement of dental books appended to the English text we find: "Dental Hygiene.—L. S. Parmly, M.D., Dental Hygienist, and Fellow of the American Society of Dental Surgeons, etc., etc.," of which book the present writer has been able to learn nothing further.

²² For dates, see footnotes to Eleazar's "In Memory of Levi Spear Parmly" in "Thoughts in Rhyme," p. 388; and for a poem to Levi S., written in 1858, see p. 369. For the typhoid fever and paralysis, see the *Dental Reporter*, February 1859, Vol. i, p. 179, in an interesting article on "American Dentists in Europe;" and also see the obituary of Levi S. in the *American Journal*, New Series, Vol. ix, p. 598, in which the writer says that the deceased chiefly devoted the last fifteen or eighteen years of his life to hygienic dentistry, "at pecuniary sacrifices which few, even of the most philanthropic, would be willing to make," adding that he had known Levi S. for nearly thirty years and never knew a man "more philanthropically devoted to his profession or possessed of more excellent qualities of heart." Mrs. Levi S. Parmly died September 2, 1870, age sixty-seven, and was laid beside her husband in Perry.

Wall Street Academy, and they became bosom friends; indeed their friendship did much to mold the after lives of both and terminated only at the death of Eleazar.²³

In 1824 Eleazar became engaged to marry John Jacob Astor's third and youngest daughter, Eliza. The tradition is that this engagement was at first kept secret from every one but Mrs. Astor and Solyman Brown, as Mr. Astor was bent upon marrying Eliza into the European nobility; that when Mr. Astor learned of his daughter's engagement to Eleazar, he took her abroad and married her to Count Vincent Rumpff, a native and resident of Switzerland; that Mrs. Astor opposed this marriage, being strongly in favor of Eleazar, whom she wrote from Paris to come over and marry Eliza despite the father; that Eleazar went, but arrived too late, just in time to bid an affecting farewell to the newly made Countess Rumpff on the eve of her departure for Switzerland with the Count; that Mrs. Astor after her return to New York gave the disappointed suitor \$1000 to reimburse him for the expenses of his trip and his business losses while making it, and that the Countess Rumpff died of a broken heart a few years later.²⁴

Solyman Brown removed to 11 Park

Place on May 1, 1825; and both Eleazar and Samuel W. Parmly appear to have gone to that address immediately after Eleazar's return from Europe early in 1826. These three kept bachelors' hall together for over a year, until the marriage of Eleazar. On June 17, 1827, he married Anna Maria Valk Smith, their intimacy having been renewed after a separation of some seven years; and their married life of nearly thirty years proved an ideal one, several of Eleazar's poems attesting deepest devotion to his beautiful and accomplished wife (see "Thoughts in Rhyme," pp. 360, 365-8, 405, 414, 523). Incidentally, she was an heiress, her deceased foster-father having been a wealthy broker. The young couple started housekeeping at 11 Park Place; Solyman Brown removing next door, to No. 9, where he remained till 1832, while Samuel W. Parmly returned to Perry for a time. In 1829, Eleazar's cousins Jahial and Ludolph (sons of Randolph, the farmer) joined him as student-assistants. Ludolph went to Mobile in 1830, and Jahial continued with Eleazar as prosthetic specialist for

April 1876, p. 884; *N. Y. Times Illustrated Magazine*, March 6, 1898; Spooner's "Historical Families of America," Vol. iii, p. 328). Solyman Brown wrote a poem to Eleazar Parmly in 1824 in which there is an allusion to the expected marriage of the latter within the year (in a MS. collection in possession of the present writer). In a poem by Eleazar dated July 1825, he refers to his forthcoming departure for "far-distant countries" ("Thoughts in Rhyme," p. 520). In his rhymed "Notes on Foreign Travel," in "Thoughts in Rhyme," Eleazar describes his visits in 1854 and again in 1862 to the Swiss villa on the shore of Lake Geneva where "Eliza A." died, and to the nearby chapel close to the town of Rolle where she was interred; and he speaks of breaking a flower from its stem, when visiting her grave, "as broken were her hopes in youth" (*ibid.*, pp. 180, 187; 314, 315). He has a poem "To Eliza" (p. 428) and another "To the Memory of Eliza," in the latter of which he speaks of her beauty and "submission to her honored sire," as well as of his love for her (p. 420); and the same "Eliza" doubtless reappears in anagrammatic form as "Zelia" (simply with the Z transposed) in his little love poem "To Zelia" (p. 491).

²³ See Solyman Brown's "Dentologia," Introduction, p. x. He gave the name of his bosom friend to his son E. Parmly Brown, father of the present writer.

²⁴ This is the substance of the tradition as handed down by Solyman Brown and known to the present writer from early youth. There are several serious errors in the version given by Thorpe without dates in his biography of Eleazar Parmly, as derived from some hasty notes supplied by E. Parmly Brown, which included the episode of the \$1000, omitted by Thorpe. Thus this biographer says that Eleazar "was engaged to marry Miss Mary Astor, the only daughter of the head of the original John Jacob Astor family;" that Miss Astor married Baron von Romph of Germany, and that Mr. Astor had a chateau in Switzerland.

The tradition as given in the text above is corroborated by the following facts: The published genealogies of the Astor family have 1801 for Eliza's birth; December 10, 1825 for her marriage to Count Vincent Rumpff, and 1833 for her death (see *Scribner's Magazine*,

the next ten years; thus justifying Eleazar in his theory of prosthetics as preferably a specialty of dentistry (see his Preface in "Dentologia," p. vii). In 1830 Eleazar purchased "Bingham Place" in Shrewsbury Township, Monmouth County, N. J. (about a mile from Rumson, formerly called Oceanic); and this fine little estate was his country

FIG. 5.



ELEAZAR PARMLY.

(1838.)

(Oil portrait by W. H. Powell, now in the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery.*)

residence during the remainder of his life.²⁵

*Probably the earliest portraits of Eleazar, 1835-1840, are found in the marble bust and oil painting by Solyman Brown, in the present writer's "New Light on Dental History," in the DENTAL COSMOS, Vol. lxii, p. 943. An engraved portrait, hardly more than a caricature, appeared in the *American Journal of Dental Surgery*, Vol. iii, No. 2, December 1842, intended as a frontispiece to the volume (see p. 419).

²⁵ His uncle Randolph had removed to Shrewsbury earlier in the same year. "Bingham Place" belonged originally to the well-known Bingham family of Philadelphia, and in the house one of the girls of that family had married Lord Ashburton. In a separate building on this estate Solyman Brown was head of a school for boys in 1831 and 1832.

In 1833 Solyman Brown entered the Parmly household at 11 Park Place to study dentistry and perfect the manufacture of porcelain teeth in collaboration with Eleazar; and it was there that the former wrote his "Dentologia," which was published by the latter, with Notes by himself, in the same year.²⁶

It also appears that James A. Pleasants and Samuel G. Pancost, both connected by marriage with the Parmly family, were successively associated with Eleazar for short periods during the early thirties. In 1834 Solyman Brown formed a dental partnership with Samuel Avery in New York City, and Eleazar and Jahial were shortly joined by the latter's brother, David R., as student-assistant.

In 1834, the notorious Crawcour brothers came from London to New York with their Royal Mineral Succedaneum, as they called amalgam. Eleazar and the better class of practitioners generally immediately opposed it as injurious and unfit for filling teeth; this opposition, together with the ephemeral success of the Crawcours through their blatant newspaper advertisements, doubtless leading directly to the organization of the world's first dental association—the Society of Surgeon Dentists of the City and State of New York, which held its first meeting December 3, 1834. Eleazar Parmly was its first President, and Solyman Brown was its first Corresponding Secretary (1834-5, the society's year 1835); and they succeeded themselves in these offices for 1835-6, at least, Solyman Brown becoming President of the society in the year 1839 (see the present writer's "New Light on Dental History," in the DENTAL COSMOS, Vol. lxii, pp. 941, 942). At the second annual meeting of this society Eleazar read a paper on "The

²⁶ See "Dentologia," Preface and Introduction. Solyman Brown says to Eleazar Parmly in the Introduction, dated April 20, 1833: "It is now more than ten years since our personal acquaintance began," and he adds in his MS. copy, "during most of which period we have resided under the same roof and fared at the same table," etc., which is omitted in the printed text.

Objects of the Society and the Qualifications of a Good Surgeon Dentist," and also another on "The Several Important Operations in Dental Surgery;" analyses of both appearing in the *U. S. Medical and Surgical Journal*, Vols. ii and iii, and again in the "Transactions" of the Society for 1836. As president of the society, he also fired the first shot in the "Amalgam War," hotly denouncing Royal Mineral Succedaneum in a notice to the public published in the *U. S. Medical and Surgical Journal* for March, 1835 (Vol. i, pp. 311, 312); and he was always the leader in the violent and often unreasonable attacks upon amalgam that continued for the next quarter century or more.

In 1837, he was associated with Chapin A. Harris, Solyman Brown and a few others in the establishment of the first dental periodical, the *American Journal of Dental Science*, of which Harris and Parmly were nominal editors for the first year, while Parmly, Baker and Brown constituted the publishing committee (see "New Light on Dental History," p. 945). Eleazar published an article on a "Remarkable Case of Osseous Union of the Teeth" in the first number of the *Journal*, June 1839 (pp. 23, 24), and in the same year appeared a new edition of John Hunter's "Natural History of the Human Teeth, with Notes by Eleazar Parmly," reprinted as a supplement to Vol. i of the *Journal*.²⁷

Eleazar and others in New York gave financial aid to the establishment of the Baltimore College (chartered in 1840), having previously made unsuccessful attempts to induce medical colleges to include a chair of dentistry (see "New Light on Dental History," p. 948).

Eleazar's wife had inherited property at Broadway and Maiden Lane, which he sold in 1840, buying the connecting buildings at 1 and 3 Bond Street, corner of Broadway. He then removed his office and residence to 1 Bond Street, while Jahiel established an independent office

in the connecting building. In the same year J. W. Crane, M.D., a well-known New York dentist who practiced at 5 Park Place, made a violent attack upon Eleazar in a letter published in some of the New York newspapers, charging him with incapacity because he had not been regularly educated in medicine. This was answered in the *Journal* by Harris with a footnote by Eleazar (Vol. i, pp. 219-225), and in all probability the animosity between Crane and Eleazar led to a factional war within the first dental

FIG. 6.



ELEAZAR PARMLY.

(About 1850.)

(Engraved frontispiece to his "Thoughts in Rhyme;" also in Koch's "History of Dental Surgery," Vol. III.)

society which resulted in its dissolution in 1840, when it was succeeded by the American Society of Dental Surgeons with the broader field of the whole nation. Eleazar was one of the leading organizers of the American Society, of which he was the original Second Vice-President, while Solyman Brown was the original Recording Secretary; both also signing the Constitution of the society and serving on several committees. Membership in the society automatically conferred its D.D.S. upon them, and both received the M.D. from some university medical school at about this time (see *American Journal*, Vol. i, p. 225).

²⁷ Eleazar opposes amalgam in one of his Notes (Part II, p. 10), most of which are devoted to combating Hunter's theories of the inorganic nature of teeth and the internal origin of caries.

Eleazar was First Vice-President of the society from 1841 to 1844, and President from 1844 to 1853.

In 1842 he was one of the first to receive the honorary D.D.S., from the Baltimore College; and in the same year he delivered his "Introductory Address" before the American Society in Boston, in the course of which he sketches the early history of himself and Levi S. in dentistry, and continues his attacks on amalgam, denying that he ever used it except in a single instance, which he says proved its deleterious effects (*American Journal*, Vol. iii, pp. 1-19). In 1843 the society branded the use of amalgam as malpractice, and appointed Solyman Brown, Eleazar Parmly and J. Foster a committee to inquire into the subject, and of course their report was against the material (*ibid.*, Vol. iv, p. 70, etc.).

Edwin J. Dunning²⁸ left his practice in Ithaca, N. Y., and became assistant to Eleazar in 1844, continuing in that capacity until 1856.

From 1845 to 1850, Eleazar was a non-resident member of the Fourieristic community or "phalanx" at Perth Amboy, N. J., Solyman Brown having been a resident member of the Le Raysville (Pa.) Phalanx in 1844-5; and both were intensely interested in religion always, Eleazar being a lay preacher for many years in the Church of the Disciples at 74 West 17th Street, while Solyman Brown was a Swedenborgian minister as well as a dentist. They were forceful and convincing public speakers; indeed Eleazar distinguished himself more as a speaker than a writer. As President of the American Society he delivered the opening addresses at its conventions of 1845 and 1846, and probably later;²⁹ and he also delivered the addresses to

the graduating classes of the Baltimore College from 1847 to 1852.³⁰ He was Provost of the Baltimore College from 1848 to 1852.

Eleazar published an attack on amalgam in the *N. Y. Tribune* for May 26, 1847, which brought forth a defense of the material by Elisha Baker in the *Express* under the caption: "Mr. Parmly and His Amalgam War." (See also *N. Y. Dental Recorder*, Vol. i, pp. 116-120, 126, 129.) In the same year Eleazar also published his "Properties and Effects of Amalgam Examined" in the *N. Y. Journal of Medicine* (and pamphlet reprint); his old enemy J. W. Crane then being one of his allies, as we learn from this article. But the wildest battles of the Amalgam War were fought against Eleazar by Elisha Baker, J. S. Ware and Charles C. Allen in the pages of the *Dental Recorder* for 1847, 1848, 1850 and 1853. Mistaken or not, Eleazar always had the courage of his convictions and never surrendered: in that Golden Age of Dentistry he was the leading protagonist of gold for filling teeth. As one of the committees on dental awards at the World's Fair in the Crystal Palace, New York, 1853, he was the most prominent figure in a minor dental war; his opponent being Charles C. Allen as the member of the same committee who made a minority report (see *Dental News Letter*, Vol. vii, pp. 145-150; 226-233).

Eleazar's son Ehrick had graduated from the Baltimore College and associated himself with his father in 1851. Levi S. Burrige, a cousin of Eleazar, was associated with him in 1851-2; and in the fifties two other cousins, Samuel P. and Henry C. Parmly, had the benefit of Eleazar's instruction during several extended visits.³¹

²⁸ A biographical sketch of Dr. Dunning—born 1821, died 1901—is found in the *International Dental Journal*, Vol. xxii, p. 808; cf. McManus, "Makers of Dentistry" in *Transactions of Northeastern Dental Association*, 1903, p. 120.

²⁹ *American Journal*, vi, pp. 3-15; vii, pp. 181, 182, the "Address" of 1845 being of considerable historical interest, while that of 1846 is in verse.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, vii, pp. 300-323; viii, pp. 261, 277, etc.; the rhymed "Address" of 1847 being devoted largely to a history of his own career, with some lines against amalgam.

³¹ It thus appears that one brother, three nephews, three cousins and two others connected by marriage had the benefit of professional instruction and association with Eleazar; but the only person outside of the

In 1854-5 Eleazar traveled in Europe for over a year, accompanied by his wife and their three unmarried daughters, his practice being left in charge of Ehrick with the assistance of Dunning.³²

Eleazar was again abroad in 1856; this time hastening to Paris with his wife only, to be with their sick daughter Anna, Mrs. T. P. Rossiter, who died shortly before the arrival of her parents.³³ The ship bearing her remains and her three children to America passed her parents on their ship just outside of Havre; and the parents returned immediately to New York.

The association of Dunning with Eleazar and Ehrick had terminated in the same year; and the two latter removed their offices to 3 Bond Street, where they remained for ten years, during the latter part of which decade Eleazar gradually relinquished his practice to Ehrick.³⁴

ably whom he received as student-assistant was Solyman Brown. Dunning had practiced in Ithaca before becoming assistant to Eleazar.

In his rhymed "Notes on Foreign Travel," in "Thoughts in Rhyme," Eleazar gives a worthy account of this trip; during the course of which he visited Tomes, Nasmyth, Bell, Cartwright, Rogers, Beggs and Ballard (in London), and Evans and Brewster (in Paris). While in Paris for the second time during this trip, the Parmlys were received by Napoleon III and Eugenie; and Eleazar wrote an interesting letter on the condition of dentistry in Europe, which was published in the *Dental Register of the West*, Vol. viii, pp. 222-225. In this letter he tells us that Thomas Bell had done more for the profession by his writings and lectures than any other man in England, and he says that Charles Newton "was in New York when I went there, and was an operator taking both the mechanical and surgical departments of our art, the cleverest man I had ever known, or ever have known to the present day."

³³ Herself the twin sister of Ehrick, Anna had married the artist T. P. Rossiter in 1853, and had given birth to twins while her parents and sisters were in Paris for the second time during the trip of 1854-5 ("Thoughts in Rhyme," p. 214). Further on we shall find other pairs of twins in the Parmly family.

³⁴ Jahial and David Randolph Parmly had their offices at the same address during this

Mrs. Eleazar Parmly died June 7, 1857, and her death called forth some sorrowful verses from her devoted husband. ("Thoughts in Rhyme," pp. 451-455; cf. 456 and 523.) With daughters no less attractive and accomplished than herself, an affable and handsome husband, and abundant wealth, she had lived to see her family enjoying a higher social position than has ever been held by any other dentist's family in this country or anywhere. Besides Ehrick and Anna, they had three sons who died in infancy and four daughters of whom two married. Anna, Mrs. T. P. Rossiter, born 1830, had three children. Mary Montagu, born 1831, married Charles H. Ward, M.D., of New York City, and had seven children. Julia, born 1835, married Frederick Billings, a wealthy lawyer of New York with mining interests in the West, who gave his name to Billings, Montana; and they had five children. Eleazar has had some sixty descendants down to the present writing.

In 1859 Eleazar removed his office and city residence to 11 West 38th Street, Ehrick going next door to 13 (Eleazar owned these houses, and also 15, 17 and 19 on the same street); and in 1861 Eleazar published his "Babe of Bethlehem."³⁵

decade and three years previously, while Samuel W. was at 30 Bond Street. Moreover, this decade is comprised in the period during which five other dentists of the Parmly line attained preëminence in Europe—Levi S. Parmly in London and Paris; Levi S. Burridge in Rome; Geo. W. Parmly in Holland and later in Paris, where he was associated with Samuel P. and Henry C. Parmly (see hereinafter for the lives of the last four). The international prestige of the Parmly dentists around this time, as a group, is without parallel in the history of dentistry.

³⁵ This is a rather laborious attempt at producing a Life of Christ in chronological order and free verse form, through the employment of selected texts from the Authorized Version of the four Gospels, *verbatim* or in paraphrase. The author tells us in his Preface that the design of the work "was to impress upon his own mind the Saviour's Divine instructions." Of course it has no critical value.

On December 30, 1861, he opened the Parmly House, which he built in Painesville, Ohio; and at the opening of this hotel he delivered a rhymed "Address to the Ladies of Painesville," in which he gives some reminiscences of his youth (in "Thoughts in Rhyme," pp. 508-520). On account of the failing health of his daughter Louisa, he took her to Europe for a few months in 1862, accompanied by his cousin Jahial. During this trip, especially in Italy, they were received by various notables, including the Brown-

During his declining years, Eleazar spent much of his time at "Bingham Place," to which he was strongly attached; retiring finally from practice in 1866.³⁶

But even then his connection with dentistry was not completely severed; for he was the first President of the New York College of Dentistry and Emeritus Professor of the Institutes of Dentistry in that institution (1866-1869), and received one of its fellowships, with the degree of F.C.D. for "Fellow of the College of Dentistry."³⁷

In 1867 he published his "Thoughts in Rhyme," a collection of original verses bearing dates from 1818 to 1862, and containing much biographical material.³⁸

FIG. 7.



ELEAZAR PARMLY.

(From a photograph bearing a revenue stamp, dated May 31, 1861.)

ings, Hiram Powers and Thomas Buchanan Read; and in France Eleazar was severely injured in a railroad collision (*ibid.*, pp. 251-350). In 1863 Eleazar went to 19 West 38th Street, whither Ehrick followed in 1865; and that was the city residence of the former till his death, and of the latter till his retirement from dentistry. In 1863, and again in 1864, Eleazar visited Washington, on each visit being taken for a drive of several miles by President Lincoln, with whom he was well acquainted. (See "Thoughts in Rhyme," pp. 371-373; 497-480; cf. pp. 487, 488 for Eleazar's "Death of Abraham Lincoln.")

³⁶ His DENTAL COSMOS obituary says "about 1861" for which Thorpe has, "in 1861."

³⁷ See early catalogs of the College. Eleazar himself never used this title, holding that the D.D.S. should be all-sufficient for a dentist, like the M.D. for the physician and surgeon, and that any variant or additional title would be confusing and detrimental to the best interests of the profession. Nevertheless the F.C.D. is appended to his name in the early catalogs of the College, and by Prof. Weiss in his "Address" to the Graduating Class in 1871 (pamphlet, pp. 7, 14).

³⁸ In the Dedication to his children, Eleazar tells us that this book was published at their request; and he says in the preface, "The literary critic who shall pronounce these Rhymes destitute of poetic merit, will call forth from me a frank acknowledgment of the purity of his taste and the justice of his judgment." But he is too severe a critic of his own work; while Thorpe, on the other hand, is too flattering when he says that Eleazar was "generously endowed as a poet." The first 350 pages of "Thoughts in Rhyme" are devoted to "Notes on Foreign Travel," which rarely rise above the level of rhymed prose; but in the following 250 pages, of miscellaneous pieces, there are various evidences of a lively appreciation of the beauties of nature, a pleasing fancy, refined sensibilities and deep affections. Some of these pieces had been published previously, presumably in newspapers (see Preface). They are mostly of the intimate and occasional kind, written in what the author calls "the natural language of the heart" (p. 540), with little straining for effect and no pedantry; indeed there is not a classical al-

He died of pneumonia at his city residence, 19 West 38th Street, on December 13, 1874, in his 78th year, and was interred in the family vault in the Rumson Burying Ground. The best practice in New York City, a fortune inherited from his wife and very profitable real estate investments (in nearly a hundred pieces of property), combined with habits of frugality and a genius for saving money (somewhat overdeveloped in his latter

FIG. 8.



ELEAZAR PARMLY.

(1873.)

(His last photograph.)

years), had made him a millionaire and the wealthiest dentist this country has ever known. He was worth some \$3,000,000 at the time of his death.

It cannot be questioned that Eleazar

lusion in the entire volume. As Thorpe says of book and author, "To read these poems is to appreciate the man for his true worth."

This book is very scarce; only a few copies, handsomely bound, having been published by Eleazar for presentation to members of his family and intimate friends. The copy in possession of the present writer is inscribed: "For The Rev. Solyman Brown, With the recollection of more than forty years of uninterrupted friendship, from his greatly and often obliged friend, E. Parmly. New York, October 19th, 1867."

Parmly stood at the head of the dental profession in this country for some thirty years, and that no dentist before or since has occupied such a preëminent position here, reputation with the laity and professional brethren both being taken into consideration.³⁹

Thomas W. Evans stood in a similar position in Europe for nearly fifty years (1847-1897); and while Evans' reputation with the laity of Europe, largely through his connections with royalty and historical events, surpassed the reputation of Eleazar Parmly with the laity of this country, the services of the former to the profession were inconsiderable as compared to those of the latter.⁴⁰

Eleazar Parmly was one of the Fathers of Dentistry as a profession, while Evans was not; and among those who have surpassed Eleazar in scientific attainments, none has had the requisite wealth and social position to do what he did for the elevation of dentistry. Taking all things into consideration—personality, attainments, wealth, social position, services to the profession and reputation with both laity and professional brethren—Eleazar Parmly may well be esteemed the greatest dentist in history.

³⁹ His DENTAL COSMOS obituary has: "He soon acquired an extensive and remunerative practice, and for more than thirty years stood at the head of his profession." According to John B. Rich, he stood "by common consent at the head of the dental profession in this country" (in *Transactions New York Odontological Society, Special Meeting, December 14-16, 1874*, p. 65). "He contributed to our profession the potency of his wealth, his high social position, his elegance of manners, and all that constitutes a true gentleman, at a time when we most needed them," as William H. Dwinelle has it ("Souvenir of the Dinner to Wilhelm Herbst" by the New Jersey Dental Society, July, 1886, pamphlet, p. 22). And Thorpe tells us that Eleazar worked his way to "the highest professional standing" and "the highest social circles, to be welcomed by the most intellectual men and women of Europe and America."

⁴⁰ But of course, posthumously, the childless Evans became one of our greatest benefactors with his bequest of \$3,000,000 for the Museum and Institute which bears his name.

JAHIAL PARMLY, SENIOR, OF OHIO.

Jahial Parmly, sixth child and fourth son of Eleazar (the farmer) and Hannah (Spear) Parmly, was born in Braintree, Vt., July 14, 1799, and in 1806 went with the rest of the family to the shore of Lake Champlain, where he took the place of his brother Eleazar on the farm in 1814. He was familiarly known as "Hiel." In 1817 he accompanied his parents and younger brothers and sisters to Perry, Ohio, and there continued at farming until 1820. In July of that year, when he was twenty-one years old, his brother Levi S. took him to Niagara Falls to aid in gathering teeth from the skulls of soldiers who had fallen at Lundy's Lane on the Canadian side in 1814; and the brothers succeeded in gathering a large supply—as we have already seen.⁴¹

This was the beginning of Jahial's career as a dentist. He next accompanied Levi S. on a professional itinerary through the South by way of New York and Washington (1820-1821); many of the teeth gathered at Lundy's Lane being fitted to gold and silver plates by Jahial, that being his special task at first. In Washington, President James Monroe and his family were among the distinguished patients of these Parmly brothers. Levi S. returned to New York in 1821, and Jahial returned to Perry; the latter for the next thirty years making professional itineraries through the South in the winter season, while his summers were spent on the Perry farm. It was during this period that the pioneer steamboat and railroad lines of the United States were established; but Jahial was compelled to travel without their aid at first, mostly on horseback, going as far as New Orleans. In Washington he included President John

Quincy Adams as well as the then ex-President Monroe among his patients.⁴²

⁴² President Adams' mother was a Spear, of the same family to which the mother of Levi S. and Jahial Parmly belonged. The present writer has in his possession a testimonial certificate from President Adams to Jahial Parmly dated at Washington, November 25, 1826, and also one from ex-President Monroe dated at Oak Hill, Va., April 16th of the same year; in the latter of which

FIG. 9



JAHIAL PARMLY, SENIOR, of Ohio.

(About 1835.)

(From a large oil portrait in the Evans Museum and Dental Institute at Philadelphia.*)

Jahial receives permission to make any use he sees fit of some former certificate from the ex-President attesting to the professional merits of both Levi S. and Jahial.

* It was presented to this Museum by Jahial's son, Dr. Samuel P. Parmly, who received it from Dr. Eleazar Parmly. It is undated and unsigned, but was probably painted for Eleazar by Solyman Brown, who put his name to none of his busts, portraits or other paintings. The present writer has a photograph of Jahial taken shortly before his death portraying a very rugged face.

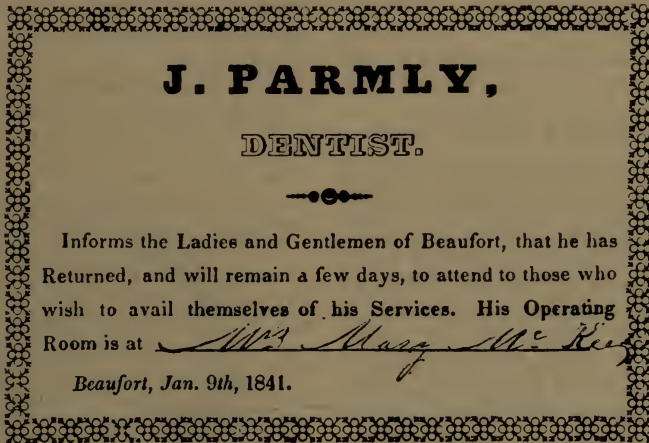
The relics and records of the Parmly dentists in possession of the writer will go to the Evans' Museum; and all others having anything in this line of historical value are urged to present the same to this great Museum, to the end that a fitting collection of Parmly memorials may be preserved to posterity.

⁴¹ In a sketch of his life, with a portrait belonging to old age, in the "History of Geauga and Lake Counties, Ohio" (1878), we find the erroneous statement that he went to London with Levi S., and remained there two years; thus being confused with Levi S., in a sketch of Jahial, Junior, in the "Biographical History of Northeastern Ohio" (1893).

The chief field of Jahial's activities was in Georgia, especially in Savannah and Augusta; the former city generally appearing as his business address. It was there, on May 3, 1826, that he married Eliza A. Pleasants, born in Richmond, Va., 1799; died in Perry, 1891),

Jahial Parmly, Senior, of Ohio, was probably the most successful itinerant dentist in history. Without being present, he was elected a member of the American Society at its first convention, 1840, thus automatically receiving the Society's D.D.S. (*American Journal*,

FIG. 10.



Card of Jahial Parmly, Senior, of Ohio.

a daughter of John and a sister of John A. and Charles S. Pleasants, the two latter both being dentists: and Charles S. some years later married Jahial Parmly's sister Eunice, being her second husband.⁴³

⁴³ James A. Pleasants went to New York in 1830; became student-assistant to Eleazar Parmly and succeeded to the practice of Eleazar Gidney at 26 Park Place when Gidney left for Europe in 1831, as we know from an advertising card in the *New York Mirror* in which James A. announces himself as "late assistant to Mr. E. Parmly." In 1832 he published in New York a "Treatise on the Functions and Treatment of Teeth, designed for the use of individuals and private families;" a flattering review of which appeared in the *New York Mirror* for July 21, 1832, Vol. x, pp. 21-23; cf. notice of same work, *ibid.*, July 7, p. 7, where it is said that James A. "had pursued his studies under the efficient direction of Mr. E. Parmly." A second edition of the "Treatise" was published in Philadelphia in 1833. It is well written,

Vol. i, p. 168; Vol. iii, p. 74). It is said that he always returned to Perry from his Southern itineraries as thin as a June shad, but plentifully supplied with coin of the realm. On one occasion he tried a sailing vessel from New York to Charleston; but was blown so far out to sea in a storm that he ever after kept to *terra firma*. The original family farm of 50 acres at Perry was inherited by him at his father's death in 1825, and he added to it at various times until he owned 3600 acres in that locality. In 1834 he built at Perry what was and is still known as "the Mansion,"⁴⁴ a fine large

but wholly for popular consumption. James A. is said to have been a well-educated and affable man who practiced in London and Paris as well as New York, dying unmarried.

"The tract on which it stands is on Parmly Road, one of the oldest highways in the township, running from the State Road to the lake shore.

brick residence with ample grounds sloping to the shore of Lake Erie.

Jahial also purchased land in other parts of Ohio, until he owned 6000 acres in all, the rise in value of his real estate holdings making him a wealthy man for his part of the country. He retired from practice about 1850, and for nearly twenty years devoted himself exclusively to farming. In a poem dated 1858, Eleazar speaks of him as

Jahial, the farmer, with more land to till
Than fifty good farmers could manage with care.

*—"Thoughts in Rhyme," p. 370.

He was tall and sturdy; locally famous for his prowess with an ax, and like the rest of his immediate family, an ardent Disciple. One of his idiosyncrasies was a strong antipathy to the odor of brass, so that he always grasped door knobs of that metal with his coat tail and never touched coins of copper alloy with his bare hands. He wore his hair long and parted in the middle and had a habit of frequently scratching his head with a small comb carried in a vest pocket for that purpose. Boy and man, he claimed residence in Perry from 1818 to 1866; removing in the latter year to the near-by village of Painesville, where he died May 23, 1873, in his seventy-fourth year. He was buried in the family plot in Perry, a red granite column marking his grave.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ Next after Jahial, Senior, of Ohio, come two of his sisters.

Eunice Parmly, third daughter of Eleazar the farmer, was born in Braintree, August 1, 1801; married (first) David Turney in Painesville, November 12, 1818, and had two daughters. David became student-assistant to Jahial in the South and afterward practiced there by himself during the winter months until his death from yellow fever a few years later. About 1835, Eunice married (second) Charles S. Pleasants, a dentist of Augusta, Ga. (brother of the dentist James A. Pleasants). Charles S. had met Eunice in Perry while on a visit to his sister, Mrs. Jahial Parmly, and after his marriage practiced for some years in Painesville. He was agent in that place for the *American Journal* in 1839 and 1840, as stated on the covers of

Jahial and his wife had seven sons, three of whom went into dentistry; two of them attaining distinction in Europe, particularly as members of the Paris firm of Drs. Parmly, as we shall see.

SAMUEL W. PARMLY.

Samuel Wheelock Parmly, ninth and last child and fifth son of Eleazar (the farmer) and Hannah (Spear) Parmly, was born in Braintree, Vt., on September

the separate numbers of Vol. i. Eunice had no children by her second husband, who retired to a farm near Perry long before his death. She died June 8, 1890, and was buried in the family plot at Perry.

Polly Parmly, fourth daughter of Eleazar the farmer, was born January 12, 1805; and on June 1, 1820, married (first) George Turney, a brother of David who was the first husband of Polly's sister Eunice. George and Polly settled on a farm at Madison, Ohio, where George died after his wife had given birth to a son and a daughter. Some years later, Polly married (second) Samuel G. Pancost, a dentist and a widower with three children by his first wife. He had met Polly while on a visit in Perry to her brother Jahial, with whom he was associated in practice for several years (around 1840) in Savannah, Ga., Charleston, S. C., and Beaufort, S. C. He had previously practiced alone in Bowling Green, Ky., and is said to have been associated for a year or two with Eleazar Parmly in New York; the tradition being that Eleazar saw and admired some of Pancost's work in a patient's mouth; wrote him at Bowling Green and arranged a meeting which resulted in their short association. Pancost and Polly lived on the latter's farm at Madison, Ohio, during the summer months; he going South each winter to practice, with his headquarters in Savannah. They had a daughter, and Polly died October 14, 1847, being buried in Perry. Born in 1801, Pancost's name had originally been Pancoast, but he dropped the second *a* in his youth. After the death of Polly he took a third wife, by whom he had three sons, one of them being S. A. Pancoast, D.D.S., who restored the elided *a* to the family name. Born in Savannah, Ga., October 25, 1852, S. A. Pancoast married March 10, 1873, and is still a practicing dentist, in Ashtabula, Ohio. After the death of his mother, his father married for the fourth time, and died in Painesville, May 5, 1886.

5, 1806, and spent his early years on the shores of Lake Champlain and in Perry, Ohio, as a farmer boy. In 1822, at the age of sixteen, he went to New York City and became the first student-assistant of his brother Eleazar, who had a fine portrait made of him by Henry Inman, dated 1823 and still in the family. He continued with Eleazar for several years, at the same time forming an intimate and life-long friendship with Solyman Brown. In 1827, Samuel W. purchased a farm at Perry, on Parmly's Point, just east of the original family tract inherited by his brother Jahial.⁴⁶

FIG. 11.



SAMUEL W. PARMLY.

(About 1870.)

(Photograph taken in New York City.)

Samuel W. married Lavinia L. Scofield of New York City on April 14, 1829. Her father Jesse was a wealthy man, who had resided at the corner of Broadway and Wall Street at the time of her birth in 1811. She was a friend of

the family of Amos Butler, editor and proprietor of the *New York Mercantile Advertiser*, and was instrumental in smoothing the way for the marriage of Solyman Brown and Elizabeth Butler, a daughter of Amos, which occurred in 1831. Samuel W. appears to have made professional tours in the South both before and after his marriage; was in New Orleans in 1831, while his brother Levi S. was still practicing there, and settled permanently in New York City in 1838, first appearing in the Directory for 1839, with his address at 9 Park Place.⁴⁷

In 1840, when Eleazar removed from 11 Park Place to 1 Bond Street, Samuel W. went to the former address, and had his office and city residence there for ten years; spending the summer months on his Perry farm. He was one of the organizers of the American Society of Dental Surgeons, receiving the D.D.S. of that Society at its first convention, 1840; and was on its first publishing committee, where he remained for several years. In 1849 he removed to 30 Bond Street, where he practiced for some twenty years. In 1856 he purchased a second country home, in Summit, N. J., and spent ten summers there; but sold it in 1867, and thenceforth went to his Perry farm for the hot season. In 1870 he removed from 30 Bond Street to 253 West 34th Street, where he died December 15, 1880. He was at first interred in the old Marble Cemetery, Second Street, New York; but his remains were removed to the Mountain Grove Cemetery in Bridgeport, Conn., where his wife also was interred, subsequently. They had two children, a son who died in infancy and a daughter who died a few days after the birth of her only child, a son, who is still living, in New York City.

⁴⁶ From a poem to Samuel W. by Solyman Brown, dated August 1827, we gather that the latter expected to meet the former in Perry at the close of the following winter and make his permanent home there with his—Solyman's—wife-to-be, delighted that distance would no longer separate him from his beloved friend.

⁴⁷ He was in New Orleans in 1831 according to one of several poems written to his wife by Solyman Brown—all of which are in a MS. collection in possession of the present writer, one of them having been published in the *New York Mirror* for July, 1833. Eleazar has an interesting poem "To Samuel Wheelock Parmly," dated 1839, in "Thoughts in Rhyme," p. 476.

As stated in his DENTAL COSMOS obituary, Samuel W. Parmly "was a man of integrity, cultivated taste and very considerable literary ability" (Vol. xxiii, p. 105). Like the rest of his immediate family, he was an ardent Disciple and deeply interested in matters of religion. He wrote three religious works; viz., "Bible Proofs," "Eternal Punishment," and "Life of Saint Paul," but the present writer has not succeeded in finding any of them. He also wrote verses, some of which were published in the newspapers of Painesville, Ohio.⁴³

JAHIAL OF NEW YORK; LUDOLPH AND
DAVID RANDOLPH PARMLY.

Jahial Parmly, second child and first son of Randolph⁴⁹ and Elizabeth B.

⁴³ The following extracts are from a rather pathetic piece by Samuel W. Parmly, entitled "An Old Man Finds Rest," which appeared in the *Telegraph* of Painesville shortly before his death:

"There is one thing I want, and that one thing
is rest;
I am childless, and old, and by sorrow oppressed;
My burden is heavy, and bare is my head,
And the roadway is rough where my weary
feet tread.

"My hand, in much trembling and weakness
takes hold
Of my staff, like a hand that in winter is
cold;
And my ear is so dull that I hardly can hear
The singing of birds though they come very
near.

"The flowers in the sunshine are open and
bright;
But their beauty I see not, so dim is my
sight," etc.

⁴⁹ *Randolph*, the farmer, eighth and last child of Jahial and Eunice (Hendee) Parmly, was born July 15, 1783, in Randolph, Vt., and received his baptismal name from that town, in which he was the first white male child born, his father having removed thither in 1780. Randolph was taken by his parents to Braintree in 1795, and in 1804 married Elizabeth B. Murray, by whom he had nine children. He removed with his family to

(Murray) Parmly, was born in Braintree, August 15, 1807, about a year after the birth of his cousin Samuel W.

Ludolph Parmly, fourth child and third son of Randolph, was born in Braintree, March 25, 1811.⁵⁰

FIG. 12.



JAHIAL PARMLY of New York.
(About 1880.)

David Randolph Parmly, seventh child and fifth son of Randolph, was born in Braintree, September 22, 1818.

These brothers spent their early years

Hancock, Vt. in 1820; to Middlebury, Vt., in 1823; to Shrewsbury, N. J., in 1830, and to New York City in 1838, when he finally retired from farming. He died October 10, 1864, being buried in his native place. His funeral is the subject of a poem by Dr. Eleazar Parmly, his nephew; in "Thoughts in Rhyme," p. 374.

⁵⁰ *Wheelock H. Parmly*, sixth child and fourth son of Randolph, born July 27, 1816, studied dentistry for a short time with his cousin Eleazar and his brother Jahial in New York City; but concluding that he lacked mechanical ability, he became a Baptist minister, preached with large success for many years and died August 1, 1894. The Parmly Memorial Church in Jersey City, corner of the Boulevard and Fairmont Avenue, was erected in his memory, and he wrote "The Parmly Family: Its Origin and Name," to which reference has already been made.

as farmer boys in Hancock and Middlebury, Vt. Jahial, always mechanically inclined, gave up farming shortly after being taken to Middlebury, and learned the gun-making trade. In 1829 both Jahial and Ludolph began the study of dentistry with their cousin Eleazar in New York, and Jahial was associated with Eleazar for the next ten years, during the former part of that period, at least, as mechanical assistant and prosthetic specialist. Jahial was probably the first specialist of the kind, or of any kind, in the history of the profession.⁵¹

Ludolph settled in Mobile, Ala., in 1830. David R. studied with Eleazar and Jahial about midway in the thirties; joined Ludolph in Mobile in 1836, and remained in partnership with him until about 1842.⁵²

On November 25, 1840, Ludolph married Maria L. Sandford of Mobile; and they had four boys (all died in infancy) and five girls (three of whom married and had children).

Jahial was treasurer of the *American Journal* during the publication of the first volume (1839-41). He went to 3 Bond Street, severing his connection with Eleazar when the latter went to 1 Bond, in 1840. He was one of the organizers of the American Society in 1840; signed its original Constitution, and was on its first Executive Committee. Ludolph was elected a member of the Society at its first convention, in New York, but was not present; and David R. was elected at the second convention, in Philadelphia, 1841, also without being present, the latter being the only one of the first generation of Parmly dentists not a member of the Society at its first convention. Membership in the Society

automatically conferred the D.D.S. upon Jahial, Ludolph and David R.⁵³

Ludolph was on from Mobile and present at the Society's second convention, at which Jahial was appointed with Eleazar and others as a committee to report on the use of amalgam (*American Journal*, i, pp. 162, 168, 244; ii, 134, 136). Ludolph was appointed one of the collaborators on the *Journal* in 1841 and continued as such until the close of Vol. iv; his name appearing with the M.D.

FIG. 13.



LUDOLPH PARMLY.

(About 1840.)

-(From an engraving made in Mobile, Ala.)

on the inside front covers of Vols. iii and iv.

Both Jahial and Ludolph, as well as Levi S. and Eleazar, received the honorary D.D.S. of the Baltimore College in 1842 (not 1841, the date as given in the College catalogues); but David R. had no D.D.S. except that of the Society. Jahial married Ann Hutchings in New York City, April 24, 1843, and they had one son (Jahial, who had a son) and four

⁵¹ See Eleazar Parmly's Preface to "Dentologia," p. viii, where Eleazar refers to Jahial's specialization as a successful novelty, inaugurated by the former more than four years before the Preface was penned, October 19, 1833.

⁵² Mobile was still the address of David R. in 1841, according to the *American Journal*, ii, p. 134.

⁵³ Ludolph has the D.D.S. appended to his name in the *Journal* for August and September, 1841, Vol. i, p. 280.

daughters (two of whom married and had children). David R. left Mobile in 1845 and practiced for a short time in St. Louis, Mo., thence removing to New York City, where at first he joined his cousin Samuel W. at 11 Park Place, and remained with the latter until about 1849. Referring to David R. as practicing in St. Louis in 1846, *Stockton's Dental Intelligencer* says that he possessed "high claims to skill, having enjoyed the very best advantages for obtaining a thorough dental education, from which he did not fail to profit, as his subsequent success in practice abundantly proves. If he does not sustain a reputation for skill, he will be the first one of that name [Parmly] who has failed to do so." (Vol. ii, p. 100.)

Ludolph come on from Mobile and attended the fourth convention of the American Society, at which Jahial, David R. and Eleazar were also present (*American Journal*, iv, p. 70). Jahial was appointed on the Society's Executive and Examining Committees in 1846, and on its Amalgam Committee in 1848 (*ibid.*, vi, p. 85; viii, p. 105). He delivered the Opening Address at the Society's convention of 1854 (*ibid.*, New Series, iv, p. 61), and was present at its last meeting in 1856, with eight others (*Dental News Letter*, x, pp. 87-88).

David R. remained at 11 Park Place for some three years after Samuel W. removed from that address about 1849; and in 1852 entered into a partnership with Jahial which lasted with a short intermission for some twenty-two years, until the death of David R. They practiced for some sixteen years at 3 Bond Street, where they also resided at first; and both took prominent parts in the American Society in its latter days. David R. was on its Publishing Committee in 1849 and 1853, and in the latter year was Corresponding and Recording Secretary and also Librarian. He married Mary E. Morison on January 4, 1854, and went to live in Brooklyn. They had one son (who married but had no issue) and three daughters (one of whom married and had children). It

was also in 1854, June 29th, that Ludolph died of yellow fever in Mobile.⁵⁴

David R. with his wife proceeded to that city to take Ludolph's practice (his first child being born there); but he returned to his partnership with Jahial in 1857, and thenceforth until shortly before his death had his country residence in Orange, N. J.

In 1855 Jahial established his country residence at Bergen Point, N. J., and

FIG. 14.



DAVID R. PARMLY.
(About 1865.)

(From a photograph taken in New York City.)

traveled in Europe with Eleazar in 1862 ("Thoughts in Rhyme," pp. 52, 58, 266). In 1863 Jahial removed his city residence to 187 West 29th Street; thence, finally, in 1866 to 3 Lamartine Place, which address became 307 West 29th Street in 1871. In 1868 Jahial and David R. had removed their offices from 3 Bond to 19 West 9th Street, where they continued to practice together and where David R. had his city residence until his death there on February 15, 1874. Jahial then joined Eleazar's son Ehrick at 19 West 38th Street, and they were

⁵⁴ Eleazar has some eulogistic verses on his death, in "Thoughts in Rhyme," p. 225.

together there until the death of Jahial, January 15, 1882, at his city residence, 307 West 29th Street. He died of a lingering disease of the throat, during the course of which he lost both voice and memory. He was recognized as a man of rare skill in his profession, indeed a real genius in mechanical dentistry, who probably had more and better appliances than any other dentist of his time, most of which were devised and made by himself.⁵⁵

His reception room at 19 West 38th Street was also his laboratory; and he is said to have kept it as clean and neat as any parlor. It was always open to any dentist seeking information about his methods and appliances, as he was emphatically opposed to the prevalent custom of charging fees for such information.⁵⁶

Through his practice and fortunate speculations, he had accumulated a fortune of some two hundred thousand dollars.

GEORGE W. PARMLY.

George Washington Parmly, first child of Dr. Levi S. and Eliza C. (Johnson) Parmly, was born in London, England, October 22, 1819, and was brought by his parents to the United States in 1820—to New Orleans in 1822. In that city he passed his youth, and in early manhood was associated with his father in the practice of dentistry. He was elected to membership in the American Society

in 1841, at its second annual convention, in Philadelphia, where he was present; thus automatically receiving the Society's D.D.S. About 1845, George W. left his father and went to The Hague, Holland, where he practiced with large success for some seventeen years, having the Dutch royal family among his patients.⁵⁷

In 1852 he received the honorary D.D.S. of the Baltimore College and in 1859 his father died at Versailles. In

FIG. 15.



GEORGE W. PARMLY.

(About 1865.)

(From a photograph taken in Paris, France.)

⁵⁵ He was the first to apply the self-acting or compound blow pipe to dental uses, according to Solyman Brown in his "Treatise on Mechanical Dentistry," Sect. 96, as published in the *American Journal*, 1842; and his improved "alcoholic blow pipe" was manufactured by Jones, White and Co. in 1847, as stated in the *N. Y. Dental Recorder*, i, p. 140).

⁵⁶ See remarks at the meeting of the New York Odontological Society in February 1882, as published in the *DENTAL COSMOS*, xxiv, pp. 370-374. Dwinelle, said in an after-dinner speech: Let us remember genial Jahial Parmly, a man who did much for our profession" (in "Souvenir" of the Dinner to Dr. Wilhelm Herbst by the N. J. Dental Society, 1886, p. 22).

1861 he was joined in partnership by his first cousin Henry C. Parmly, at The Hague, and in 1863 they went together to Paris, where Samuel P., a

⁵⁷ He had the patronage of this family and was in attendance on its members in 1847, according to Eleazar Parmly's rhymed "Address" of that year, in *American Journal*, vii, p. 323, note; cf. viii, p. 311, where we are told that George W. was dentist to Prince Alexander of Holland in 1848. According to *Stockton's Dental Intelligencer* for May 1846, Vol. ii, p. 140, George W. was expected to return to the United States after having spent the winter of 1845-1846 in Paris (where we probably should read "at the Hague").

brother of Henry C., also joined in the partnership. Under the firm name of Drs. Parmly, at 35 Boulevard des Capucines, they rapidly built up a large and lucrative practice among the royalty, nobility and aristocracy of Europe, also having many wealthy American patients. It may safely be said that no dental partnership has proved more successful, all things considered, with the exception of those in which Thomas W. Evans was the most eminent figure, at first in association with C. Starr Brewster, and later with Theodore S. Evans, a brother of Thomas W. And unquestionably the high position of American dentistry in Europe owes much to the reputation of the members of the Paris firm of Drs. Parmly.

In Paris, in 1866, George W. Parmly married Frances W. Owen of New Orleans, and they had three daughters, all of whom married and had children—one of the said daughters becoming the wife of Eleazar, a son of Dr. Ehrick, son of Dr. Eleazar Parmly.

In 1868, Samuel P. Parmly returned to the United States, and his partners continued together about a year longer, finally selling out (1869) to another cousin, Levi S. Burrridge. George W. spent the next four years in travel, partly in the United States, and then for some nineteen years, until about the time of his death, practiced intermittently in Jermyn Street, London. During this period he spent part of his time in Paris, where his family continued to reside, and where one of his daughters married; and he also made occasional visits to the United States, where he owned some real estate. He died in London, August 15, 1892;⁵⁸ and was interred in that city in Brompton Cemetery, in the tomb of an intimate friend, the last of his family, who had said that there were just two unoccupied places in his tomb, in one of which he would like to have the remains of George W., while the other was reserved for his

own, so he could lie by the side of his friend in death.

LEVI S. BURRIDGE.

Levi Spear Burrridge, youngest of the eight children of Samuel and Hannah (Parmly) Burrridge, was born in Painesville, Ohio, July 15, 1829; spent his youth in his native town, and graduated from its high school and later from the Madison Seminary. He attended the

FIG. 16.



LEVI S. BURRIDGE.

(About 1885.)

(From a photograph taken in Paris, France.)

Baltimore College of Dental Surgery; received the D.D.S. of that institution in 1850, and also the M.D. of the Baltimore College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1851. For the next two years he was associated in the practice of dentistry with his uncle Eleazar Parmly in New York City (according to family information), and then proceeded to Italy and established himself in Rome, where he had his headquarters for some seventeen years (1852-1869), also practicing in other cities of southern Europe.⁵⁹ In

⁵⁸ The date is erroneously given as August 20, 1889, by Thorpe in his biography of Levi S. Parmly.

⁵⁹ He was in Geneva, Switzerland, in the summer of 1854, according to Eleazar's "Thoughts in Rhyme," pp. 147, 187; and in

Rome, 1854, he met and married Emma F., a daughter of Samuel Ogden, a wealthy American; and they had one daughter (deceased) and two sons, one of whom is still living in New York City.

Levi S. Burridge rapidly built up a fine practice in Rome and Southern Europe, being the first American dentist to gain distinction in that quarter of the world. This was during the troublous times of the Garibaldian wars and the establishment of the present kingdom of Italy. Burridge included among his patients the King and Queen of Naples, the former of whom (Ferdinand II) decorated him in 1858; Pope Pius IX, who knighted him about 1864, and the Emperor and Empress of Austria, by the former of whom (Francis Joseph) he was decorated about 1869.⁶⁰

In 1870 Burridge went to Paris, and bought out George W. and Henry C. Parmly, the then remaining members of the firm of Drs. Parmly, of 35 Boulevard des Capucines. As the successor to this flourishing firm, Burridge continued to practice in Paris for some ten years, with many of the royalty, nobility and aristocracy of Europe among his patients. He was made Chevalier of the Legion of Honor of France by Napoleon III in 1870, and the French and English Rothschilds were his patrons and friends. Indeed his reputation and clientele at this time were second only to those of Thomas W. Evans, and without doubt no man save Evans alone did more for the elevation of the profession in the estimation of the laity of Europe.

During the Franco-Prussian War and the Commune, Burridge gave his services as a physician to the French Red Cross Society. For some years after the establishment of the Republic of France he

returned annually to the United States to visit his mother in Painesville; and on one of these trips, in 1873, he was shipwrecked on the "Europe" in mid-ocean and lost all his decorations and other belongings that he had with him; himself being among the passengers rescued by another ship, the "Greece." In 1879 he retired from regular practice, and divided the last seven or eight years of his life between Europe and America; spending a portion of each year with his mother in Painesville, and a portion with his sons, who had settled in New York City. The remainder of his time was spent in England and on the continent of Europe, where he attended to special patients, including members of the royal house of Austria and the Rothschilds, from whom he received many favors. He died in Cannes, France, November 28, 1887, and was interred in Woodlawn Cemetery, New York City, where his wife and daughter had been laid at rest previously.

He was a man of culture; a skilful practitioner and an apostle of the strenuous life. Always an ardent sportsman and equestrian, he generally had a number of fine horses, and his greatest pleasure was following the hounds. He was master of a pack while practicing in Rome, and in later life belonged to several fox-hunting clubs in England and France. Constitutionally unassuming, he was averse to sitting for portraits of himself; the photograph reproduced herewith being one of the only two he appears to have had taken.

EHRICK PARMLY.

Ehrick Parmly was one of twins; he and his sister Anna Maria Ehrick, born in New York City, April 10, 1830, being the first children of Dr. Eleazar and Anna M. V. (Smith) Parmly. Ehrick spent his earliest years in New York City and Shrewsbury, N. J.; became student-assistant to his father and graduated from the Baltimore College in 1851. Immediately after graduation he went into practice with his father at 1

speaking of him on the latter page Eleazar says, "Of a heart that is warmer no one is possessed." In the *American Journal*, new series ix, 1859, p. 150, we read: "Dr. L. S. Burridge has, we understand, returned to Rome, and resumed his practice."

⁶⁰ This is according to family information. All his decorations were lost in a shipwreck, as we shall see presently.

Bond Street, and traveled in Europe in 1853.⁶¹

Ehrick married Lucie Dubois on August 22, 1855, and they had five sons, of whom four married and three had children—one of the three, Eleazar, becoming the husband of a daughter of Dr. George W. Parmly. Drs. Eleazar and Ehrick removed their office to 3 Bond Street in 1856, and from that time the father gradually relinquished his practice to the son, until the final retirement of

38th Street in 1859, in which year Eleazar removed his residence next door, to No. 11. In 1863 Eleazar went to 19 West 38th Street, whither Ehrick followed in 1865; practicing there until his retirement and residing there during the winter months until his death.

In 1866, the first year of the New York College of Dentistry, and for several years thereafter, Ehrick was one of the clinical instructors in that institution, also being on its Board of Consulting Dentists to the Infirmary. His father died in 1874, and Ehrick inherited a large share of his fortune, including "Bingham Place" near Oceanic (now Rumson), N. J., an office building at 170 Broadway, New York City, and 13 and 19 West 38th Street. At the last address he was shortly joined in practice by Jahial of New York, and they were together until the latter's death in 1882. Ehrick retired in 1889; died at "Bingham Place" December 18, 1907, and is interred in the family vault in the nearby Rumson Burying Ground. He was a gentleman of the old school, reared in an atmosphere of wealth and culture, unassuming and easy-going, whose long life was quite uneventful.

FIG. 17.



EHRICK PARMLY.
(About 1880.)

the former in 1866. It was also in 1856 that Ehrick removed his residence to 83 East 27th Street, and thence to 13 West

⁶¹ In a letter in possession of the present writer, Ehrick says: "In 1851 I made a full upper set on ivory frame, all natural teeth, for a patient who would have nothing else. . . . It was a work requiring great patience to make an accurate fit [and one of the last plates carved from ivory, at least in the United States]. In 1853 I was in Paris. It was there still a common thing for all young patients dying in hospital and unclaimed to have their teeth knocked out with one blow of a chisel and sold to dentists. In their laboratories you would see large jars of them, kept in water and from which selections were made."

JAHIAL, JUNIOR, OF OHIO; HENRY C. AND SAMUEL P. PARMLY.

Jahial Parmly (Junior), one of twin boys, the first children of Jahial (son of Eleazar the farmer) and Eliza A. (Pleasants) Parmly, was born in Augusta, Ga., April 27, 1830, during one of his father's annual itineraries in the South. The twin brother of Jahial (Junior) died in infancy, and Jahial himself lacked the sturdy physical constitution characteristic of the Parmlys in general. He was familiarly known as "Hiel's Hiel;" spent his youth on his father's farm at Perry, and graduated from the Painesville High School and Madison Seminary. During two winters (1847 and 1848) he traveled with his father in the South, in the capacity of student-assistant, and then entered the Baltimore College; but as his health suffered from the confinement he neither completed the course nor

continued longer in dentistry. With his brother James (born 1832; died 1908) he started a profitable sawmill in Van Wert, Ohio; married Martha J. Priddy on July 5, 1855, and had four children by her, twin boys and two girls. He inherited land from his father in 1873, and spent his latter years as a farmer. His first wife died February 16, 1892, and on October 7, 1894, he married (second) Marion Hurlburt, his second cousin, a granddaughter of Betsy (Parmly) Hurl-

years as farmer boys on the "Mansion" farm at Perry and were educated at the Painesville High School and Madison Seminary. Before they were old enough to become student-assistants to their father on his Southern itineraries, the latter retired from dentistry (about 1850)⁶²; but the brothers made several extended visits to their uncle Eleazar in New York during the fifties, and had the benefit of some of his instruction. Both brothers graduated from the Balti-

FIG. 18.



JAHIAL PARMLY, JUNIOR, of Ohio.
(1864.)

FIG. 19.



HENRY C. PARMLY.
(1881.)

burt. He died at Perry, April 4, 1907, from injuries received the same day when his carriage was struck by a railroad train on a grade crossing.⁶²

Henry Clay Parmly, third child of Jahial (son of Eleazar the farmer) and Eliza A. (Pleasants) Parmly, was born in Perry, Ohio, July 28, 1835.

Samuel Pleasants Parmly, fourth child of the same parents, was born in Perry, May 3, 1838.

These two brothers spent their early

more College in the same year, 1861; and Henry C. shortly joined his cousin George W. in the practice of dentistry at The Hague.⁶³

A few months after graduating in dentistry, Samuel P. went to Naples (the year after it was included in the newly established kingdom of Italy); practiced there for one season (1861-2), and then proceeded to Paris. After a short time in the latter city (1863), he was joined in partnership by Henry C. and George W., establishing the firm of Drs. Parmly,

⁶² See sketch of his life, with some family history, in the "Biographical History of Northeastern Ohio," and a long obituary in the *Telegraph-Republican* of Painesville, Ohio, June 4, 1907.

⁶³ Eleazar found his "beloved nephew," Henry C., a resident of The Hague in 1862, according to his "Thoughts in Rhyme," p. 290.

which quickly attained signal success, as already stated.

In Paris on September 26, 1867, Samuel P. married Clara J. Sumner of New Orleans. Never over-robust, he found the practice of dentistry too ardu-

FIG. 20.



SAMUEL P. PARMLY.
(1869.)

ous and therefore withdrew from the firm in 1868 and returned to the United States. With the business acumen native to the members of the Parmly family, he recognized the opportunities offered by the then young city of Chicago; settled there permanently and became very successful in the real estate business and

with his own investments. He had two sons, the elder of whom was drowned when at college at Ann Arbor, while the younger is still living, in Chicago.

When Levi S. Burridge bought out the firm of Drs. Parmly in 1869, Henry C. Parmly took charge of the Burridge practice in Rome, and remained there until 1872, when that practice was sold to Dr. Charles Curtis. Henry C. then returned to the United States, and joined his brother Samuel P. in the real estate and investment business in Chicago. He subsequently made several trips to Europe, and traveled frequently in this country. In New Orleans on March 27, 1873, he married Hattie O. Sumner, whose sister had previously married his brother Samuel P. Henry C. died in Chicago, June 6, 1895, esteemed as a man of excellent business judgment and exceptional purity of character, who is said never to have spoken an unkind word. He had two daughters, one of whom married.

Samuel P. was actively engaged in business until 1917, when he practically retired, putting his surviving son in charge of his real estate and other investments. He is still living in Chicago, the last of the Parmly dentists, a cultured and kindly octogenarian, now in his 85th year.⁶⁴

⁶⁴ Much of the foregoing information regarding him and his dental partners of half a century ago has been received recently from him by the present writer in a number of interesting letters that bear witness to a remarkable memory for a man of his age.

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